

***Duponchelia fovealis* Zell. (Lep.: Pyralidae) and other moths new to Hertfordshire during 2001**

To my considerable surprise, a single example of the pyralid *Duponchelia fovealis* Zell. appeared at one of my mv traps set at Hexton Chalk Pit, Hertfordshire (a Herts. & Middlesex Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve), on 20 October 2001. Clark (2000. *Atropos* 10: 20-21) notes that there were five published records of this species in Britain and mentions an unpublished sixth. Langmaid (*antea*: 253) lists four records in year 2000 (of which one is the unpublished record mentioned by Clark), bringing the total to nine. Thus, the Hertfordshire moth may be the tenth British example, though I write this note prior to the 2001 British Entomological & Natural History Society's Exhibition, where it is eminently possible that more may be exhibited! The moth was skilfully netted by Duncan Fraser, in direct response to my urgent command "somebody catch that moth" to the assembled members of the Herts. Moth Group! Clark (*op. cit.*) stated, in relation to the five previously published records, that "It is likely that most, if not all, of the records have originated from specimens arriving on imported plant material". Whilst not denying that some British specimens may originate in this manner, I can find little evidence to support his assertion that all are likely to do so. My Hertfordshire example shared the night with a Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufn.) and a Gem *Orthonamma obstipata* (Fabr.) – both known as primary immigrants – and I have no reason at all to doubt that my *fovealis* does not also fall into this category.

D. fovealis was one of several new moths added to the Hertfordshire fauna during the current year, and it seems worth summarising these here. The first came in March, when a micro sent to me by Paul Clack for identification turned out to be *Caloptilia azaleella* (Brants). It was taken in his house at Rickmansworth in the south-west of the county.

Very little else of interest happened in the first six months of 2001. The abysmal weather conditions were doubtless at least partly responsible for one of the poorest years on record for moth numbers, and many people reported severely depressed catches in their garden moth traps. To add to the misery, Foot & Mouth Disease kept us out of the countryside. However, at the start of July the weather suddenly turned hot and sunny, and moths started to appear in the traps. These were boosted by a number of immigrant species, of which two were new county records. At Balls Park, Hertford, on 6 July, a single Red-necked Footman *Eilema rubricollis* (L.) appeared in a Skinner-pattern trap; the next night two Cloaked Pugs *Eupithecia abietaria* (Goeze) put in an appearance in a trap at Whippendell Wood, Watford. To her surprise, Mrs Joan Thompson returned home to nearby Oxhey after this Herts Moth Group recording trip to find another example in her garden trap.

Immigrants and adventives are all jolly nice, but finding new or overlooked resident species is far more appealing to those interesting in recording rather than mere collecting. At the Herts Moth Group recording trip to Ashridge on

4 August, Charles Watson spent half an hour looking for leaf mines before darkness fell. When I looked at these for him on the next day, I identified several examples of mines of *Stigmella nylandriella* (Tengst.) (= *aucupariae* Frey.) on rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* leaves. Surprisingly, this species too was a first for Hertfordshire. At Hexton Chalk Pit, on 18 August, two oecophorids new to the county list were attracted to m.v. light. The first – *Agonopteryx pallorella* (Zell.) – is associated with knapweed *Centaurea* and saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*. The second – *Depressaria daucella* (D.& S.) – is associated with water dropworts *Oenanthe* spp. and whorled carraway *Carum verticillatum*.

Lancashire Moth recorder Steve Palmer visited his mother's garden at Datchworth on 19 August and amongst the many moths he took was a male *Phycitodes maritima* (Tengst.) – confirmed by genitalia dissection. This is another addition to the Hertfordshire fauna.

On 18 October, I found mines of the nepticulid *Ectoedemia quinquella* on oak leaves at Gilston – two metres inside the county boundary at the point where it adjoins North Essex at Harlow. This seems to be an extremely local species, though it is already known from adjacent Essex.

Finally, back at Hexton Chalk Pit, on 20 October (the same night as the *D. fovealis*), two female examples of the yponomeutid *Zelleria hepariella* Stt. appeared in one of the light traps – another species new to the county.

Primarily as a result of the weekly recording trips held by the Herts Moth Group, the Hertfordshire moth list has now risen to an all-time total of 1487 species, comprising 883 “micros” and 604 “macros”. Those who have access to the Internet can read the Hertfordshire county list at <http://www.hertsmothgroup.org.uk>. – COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP (E-mail: colinwplant@ntlworld.com).

Further records of Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola* (Hb.) (Lep.: Arctiidae) on Anglesey

On 28 August 2001, while light-trapping at Church Bay Anglesey, I was delighted to find that the first moth to arrive was a pristine Hoary Footman *Eilema caniola*. This was not altogether a great surprise, since I was aware that Mike Hull had recorded two examples of the same species at light, two nights earlier, on 26 August 2001.

Both my own record and those of Mike Hull, combined with recent records from South Stack by Adrian Wander (*Ent. Rec.* **113**: 207; **112**: 251), indicate that Hoary Footman is indeed resident on Anglesey, particularly on the west coast. As the moth has now been recorded from two separate sites on two occasions, it would be interesting to determine how widespread it actually is on Anglesey. – GRAHAM JONES, 127 Highfield Road, Birkenhead CH42 2BX.